



A Newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Hospital Center

# update

VOL. 8, NO. 15

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Four members of HealthEast and the Hospital Center present testimony to the Health and Welfare Committee during a public hearing held at the Hospital Center. Pictured above are (left to right) Richard Fleming, member of the board of directors of HealthEast and the Hospital Center, Francis S. Kleckner, M.D., president of the Hospital Center's medical staff, David Buchmueller, president, HealthEast, and Ellwyn D. Spiker, Hospital Center president.

## HEALTHEAST OFFICIALS TESTIFY AT LEGISLATIVE HEARING

*Four HealthEast officials recently told the State House Committee on Health and Welfare that a proposed annual limit of \$200 million on capital spending by healthcare facilities in the state would have an adverse impact on healthcare.*

*David P. Buchmueller, president of HealthEast, Ellwyn D. Spiker, Hospital Center president, Francis S. Kleckner, M.D., president of the Hospital Center's medical staff, and Richard Fleming, member*

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## **"HealthEast Officials"**

of the board of directors of HealthEast and the Hospital Center, testified during a public hearing, held at the Hospital Center, concerning the proposed amendment (House Bill 1602) to the State's Health Care Facilities Act.

Buchmueller said, "The enactment of House Bill 1602 would be a disaster for this hospital and other busy, crowded, well-run institutions. The \$200 million cap effectively thwarts needed growth, particularly in outpatient areas to meet changing technological and service trends."

He said, "This is a slap in the face to the many well-run hospitals and if enacted and implemented for any period of time, House Bill 1602 will impair their ability to service their communities and set back the quality of health services in Pennsylvania."

The limit would be administered by the Department of Health and would apply to all facilities currently under the act except nursing homes. The cap would be allocated among the Health Systems Agency (HSA)

regions across the state on the basis of population.

The proposed amendment would also require the HSA and the Department of Health to approve projects in accordance with these priorities: correct conditions cited by an appropriate accrediting authority; correct currently existing cost inefficiencies; provide patient or staff conveniences and new health services deemed necessary by the applicable HSA plan.

He said, "If the current Certificate of Need process is the subject of political machinations, House Bill 1602 would put all of us -- hospitals, doctors, business, appointed state administrative people and elected officials -- in a political pressure cooker of unprecedented intensity. Imagine more than 200 hospitals competing for \$200 million in CON approvals."

Buchmueller said the bill would also hinder innovative outreach programs.

"The Slate Belt Medical Center, for a cost of less than \$100,000, is seeking a CON to



The Hospital Center's auditorium was recently transformed into a hearing room to accommodate members of the House of Representative's Health and Welfare Committee during a public hearing on cost containment in healthcare.



establish a comprehensive alcoholism treatment program, including 22 inpatient beds for detoxification and rehabilitation," said Buchmueller.

He added, "There is today a severe shortage of such institutional services for the people of the Lehigh Valley. The Health Systems Council has already approved the project and sent it on to the Department of Health. However, under House Bill 1602 this needed project would rank fifth on a scale of five in terms of approval priorities."

Spiker described the unique services the Hospital Center brings to the region -- the only state-designated trauma unit, the cardiac center for eastern Pennsylvania, the second largest open heart surgery program in the state, and the only burn center serving eastern and northeastern Pennsylvania and western New Jersey.

"If House Bill 1602 had been law over the past 11 years, much of what we have accomplished in the way of providing services to the community at a lower cost would have been impossible," said Spiker.

"I would submit that if House Bill 1602 had been law before the Hospital Center was built, the facility in which you are sitting today and the positive restraining influence it has had on healthcare costs in the region wouldn't exist," he said.

Spiker said, "The Hospital Center has helped to contain healthcare costs by working to reduce the community's need for healthcare services. This has been accomplished through the development of community education programs and through the development of one of the nation's first hospital-based wellness centers."

The concerns of physicians were expressed by Kleckner who said, "The physician remains the best advocate of the patient.

Today he is enjoined by social forces of ethics in care of the poor and the dying, the cost accounting forces of business as he attends to not only his patients but his hospital in true team fashion in management and board directorship."

He asked, "Does Pennsylvania want to have the analogy in healthcare of the dilemma now facing us in the steel industry so vividly portrayed in Bethlehem and Pittsburgh, where at one time the technical arsenal was in place but fiscal demands caused erosion of quality and competitive ability?"

He added, "When you buy too low, you erode quality."

The demand for health services was described by Fleming who said, "Today we are financially strong, delivering excellent healthcare, attempting to foster health maintenance and controlling costs while bringing new technology in healthcare to the region. We expect to continue very effectively to deserve such support as we have received. However, our facilities are now strained to the breaking point."

He said, "Our admissions have historically risen by 8 to 9% per year. Utilizing all of our available bed space, our occupancy rate has historically hovered in the 85% range. In fact, so far in fiscal year 1986, our average occupancy has been in the very difficult to manage range of 90%, and all of this has occurred while we have been simultaneously managing a dramatic 13% reduction in our patients' average length of stay. It has been this reduction in the length of stay which has enabled us to manage, with difficulty, the 8 to 9% increases in admissions without increasing our number of beds, and in holding down costs per admission."

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## PAC ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

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The Parents Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Hospital Center's Child Care Center recently elected new officers at their monthly meeting. New officers include:

President - Judy Heffelfinger, blood bank  
Vice President - Vicki Girodo, microbiology

Secretary - Terry Durn, physical therapy  
Treasurer - Vicky Spohn, critical care

The Parents Advisory Committee was formed in 1982 to act as a liaison group between the Child Care Center staff and parents to implement policies and procedures for the Child Care Center.





**Lisa Lacko, R.N., B.S.N.**

*Lisa Lacko, R.N., B.S.N., was recently promoted to the position of clinical instructor. Her main areas of responsibility include the critical care internship program and float instructor.*

*As an instructor for the six month internship program, Lacko is responsible for orienting, lecturing, and evaluating members of the program. She also provides orientation and inservices for float nurses.*

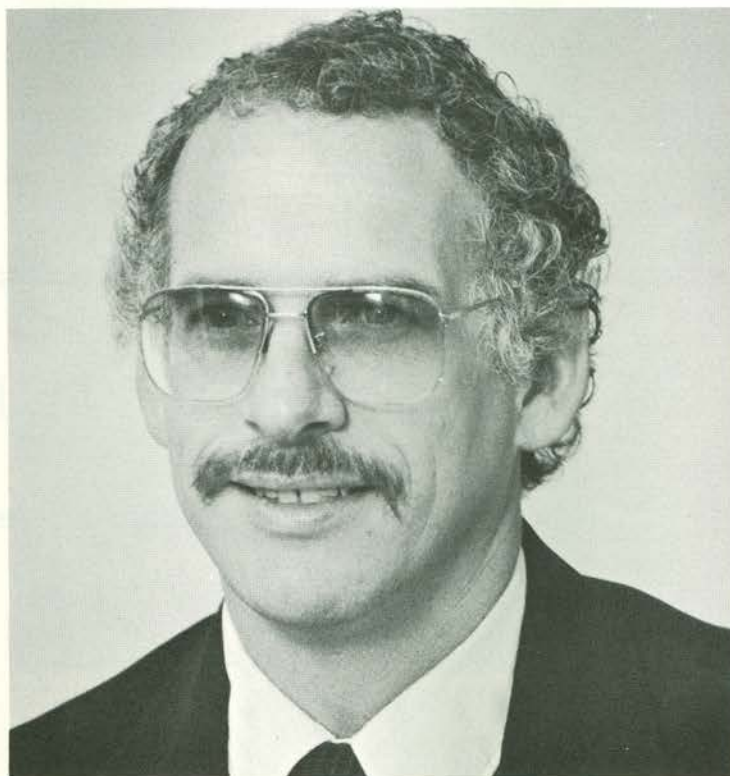
*Lacko's initial contact with the Hospital Center came about in the summer of 1980 as a work/study student in the nursing department. She joined the staff of the Hospital Center in September, 1982, when she enrolled in the critical care course. Upon completion of the course, she joined the staff of the special care unit. In May of 1984, Lacko transferred to the general intensive care unit. In June of this year, she accepted the temporary position of clinical assistant where she received training for her current position.*

*Lacko is a graduate of Cedar Crest College where she received her R.N. diploma and Bachelor of Science Degree. She is currently enrolled at Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales, where she is working toward a Master's Degree in Nursing.*

*Allan D. Moyer recently joined the Hospital Center's family as associate director of pastoral care. In this position, he will be responsible for supervising residency students in the Clinical Pastoral Education program. He will also interface with staff members to identify areas in which pastoral care and other departments can work together to establish educational or support programs. Moyer is also looking forward to developing relationships and programs with area clergy and local parishes.*

*Moyer graduated Cum Laude from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree. He also received a Master of Divinity Degree from Union Theological Seminary, New York City. Moyer is currently in his third year of the Doctor of Ministry Degree program at New York Theological Seminary, New York.*

*Prior to joining the Hospital Center's staff, Moyer was assistant director of pastoral care at Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York. Other positions he has held include resident chaplain and chaplain supervisor at Delaware State Hospital, New Castle, Delaware, and pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Birdsboro, Pennsylvania.*



**Allan D. Moyer**



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Two members of the Hospital Center's physical therapy department were recently appointed to posts in the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association (PPTA).

Evelyn Gibas Petrash, coordinator for physical therapy education, was elected to a three-year term as vice chairman of the Northeast District of PPTA.

Trevor Swan, director of physical therapy, was appointed to a three-year term as chairman of the continuing education committee of PPTA.

With over 2,000 members, the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association represents physical therapists in educational, legislative, and practice affairs. It is a chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association.



**Michelle Mahon, R.N., B.S.N.**

Michelle Mahon, R.N., B.S.N., was recently appointed coordinator, nursing services, on the 3-11 shift. In this position, she is administratively responsible for identifying and intervening in major crises affecting smooth operations of all nursing units and/or between nursing units and other hospital departments.



**Barbara Jablonski**

Mahon is also responsible for identifying and managing operational problems relating to the management of emergency situations, adequate staffing of nursing units, and safe patient care.

Mahon joined the Hospital Center's family in September of 1983 as assistant supervisor on the 3-11 shift. She received her Associates Degree in Nursing from Bucks County Community College, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Trenton State College, Trenton, New Jersey.

Prior to joining the Hospital Center's staff, Mahon was a nursing manager for over three years at Easton Hospital. She was also head nurse of pediatrics at Princeton Medical Center, Princeton, New Jersey, and she received medical/surgical experience at Mercer Medical Center, Trenton, New Jersey.

Barbara Jablonski recently joined the Hospital Center's family as educational development associate. Her responsibilities in this position will include redesigning and conducting the orientation program for new



## "People"

employees. Other duties include coordinating CPR, ACLS, and ATLS courses and special projects regarding education programs at the Hospital Center. She is also the advisor of the Hospital Center's explorer post.


Jablonski is a graduate of Bloomsburg State College where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communication/Secondary Education. She also received a Master's Degree in Education from Penn State University.

Prior to coming to the Hospital Center, Jablonski was a counseling coordinator for a state-funded program located at Wilkes College in Wilkes-Barre.

Elwood D. Ehr Gott, administrative assistant for ambulatory services, has accepted the position of administrative assistant for the department of surgery, effective October 1.

In his new position, Ehr Gott will assist

Donald H. Gaylor, M.D., chairman of the department of surgery, in all facets of hospital operation and coordinate departmental activities. He will act as a resource person for matters relating to the department, surgical residency programs, and clinical rotations. Ehr Gott will also be responsible for preparing statistical and other special reports and the capital and operating budgets for the department of surgery.

A member of the Hospital Center's family since August of 1974, Ehr Gott has gained extensive managerial experience in his previous position. As administrative assistant for ambulatory services, he was administratively responsible for the outpatient laboratory, cardiac rehabilitation, the vascular laboratory, and short procedure unit. With his knowledge of the day-to-day operations of the Hospital Center, he will be an asset to the department of surgery. 



Jo Castaldi, director of the Child Care Center, cuts the first piece of birthday cake while anxious tots wait patiently for their dessert. The Child Care Center celebrated its third birthday on Monday, September 9, with balloons and a cake for the kids and staff members. Since its opening in September of 1982, the enrollment at the Child Care Center has grown from 32 to 180 children.



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## UPDATE SCHEDULE

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Earlier this year, it was announced that Update would be distributed on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Unfortunately, due to staff changes in the public relations department, Update will now be distributed once a month. Beginning with this issue, you will receive Update on the first Tuesday of each month.

The necessity to decrease the number of publications came about recently, when Cindy Rappoport, assistant director of public relations, left the Hospital Center's family. Rappoport moved to Philadelphia with her

husband, who recently accepted a position with a law firm there.

As the public relations department is currently involved with numerous marketing and public relations projects with a limited staff, this change in the scheduling of Update has become a necessity.

Incidentally, the public relations staff welcomes any news for Update which may be of interest to the Hospital Center family. If you have any information for publication in Update, contact the public relations department at Ext. 8900.

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## HEALTHEAST OLYMPIAD

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At a recent tennis tournament between the two HealthEast hospitals, the Hospital Center's team walked away with a victory over The Allentown Hospital's team by a score of 6-4. The victory earned the Hospital Center a point in the HealthEast Olympiad.

The results of the tournament are as follows:

### Men's Singles

Jeff Lesnoff, perfusion (LVHC), defeated Tom Seabourne, human resources (TAH), 7-5, 3-6, 6-3

Chad Carver, library (TAH), defeated Lionel Kier, environmental services (LVHC), 6-2, 6-2

Andy Toth, laboratory (TAH), won by default over Paul Garbarini, respiratory therapy (LVHC).

### Men's Doubles

Richard Cipoletti, human resources (LVHC), and Lesnoff defeated Seabourne and Carver (TAH), 6-3, 6-1

Carver and Toth (TAH), won by default over Garbarini and Kier (LVHC).

### Women's Singles

Judy Holaska, nutrition support (LVHC), defeated Roseann Guadagnino, emergency center (TAH), 6-0, 6-0

Donna Sperling, admitting (TAH), defeated Helen Lamparella, mailroom (LVHC), 7-5, 6-3.

### Women's Doubles

Holaska and Lamparella (LVHC), defeated Bonnie Smith, outpatient services (TAH), and Sperling, 6-2, 6-0.

### Mixed Doubles

Cipoletti and Holaska (LVHC), defeated Bill Dunstan, Home Care (TAH), and Sperling, 6-0, 6-0

Lamparella and Lesnoff (LVHC), won by default over Guadagnino and Toth (TAH).



# BENEFIT SPOTLIGHT

## Just a Reminder...

...Job postings are placed on the bulletin boards outside personnel and recruiting, in the cafeteria, in the Medical Office Building and the General Services Building, and in the lobby by the service elevators. They are posted every Wednesday afternoon and remain up for one full week.

Many positions not filled by in-house applicants are placed on our Job Line. If you know anyone who is interested in applying for a position at the Hospital Center, please ask them to call 821-5627 and listen to the tape recording of available positions.

Applications and transfer requests are available in the recruiting office. If you have questions, you may refer to the Transfer Policy (a copy is located on the bulletin boards next to the postings) or call the office at extension 8800.

## Ride to Work Discount Program...

...In last month's issue we announced the possibility of obtaining discount LANTA bus tickets for our employees. So far very few people have expressed an interest in the program. If you use the LANTA buses on a regular basis, you may want to contact the recruiting office to learn more about the program. Unfortunately, if not enough interest is demonstrated, we will not be able to participate in this program.

## And Don't Forget...

...We've received many calls lately on the Benefit Hotline (Ext. 8801.) Don't forget, if you have something you want to discuss, give the Hotline a call. But please remember to speak slowly and clearly and give a whole message. If you want a personal reply, leave your name and telephone number (either at home or at work). Someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

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## FALL COURSES SCHEDULED

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*The schedule of courses and workshops which will be offered this fall have been announced by educational development. The list of classes to be offered in October is as follows:*

*First Aid Course - October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13 - 7:00-10:00 P.M. - Classroom I*

*Update in Office Cardiology - October 3 - 8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. - Auditorium*

*Medical Terminology Course - October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4, 11, 18 - 1:00-2:30 P.M. - Classroom I*

*Community CPR - October 8 - 7:00-10:00 P.M. - Classroom I*

*Management Development Workshop (The 60 Second Manager Implemented) - October 9 - 9:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon - Conference Room B, The Allentown Hospital*

*Dealing with Difficult People - October 11 - 9:30-11:30 A.M. - Board Room*

*New Employee Orientation - October 14 - 8:30 A.M.-12:00 Noon - Conference Dining Room*

*Management Development Workshop (The 60 Second Manager Implemented) - October 16 - 9:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon - Conference Dining Room*

*Community CPR - October 18 - 2:00-5:00 P.M. - Classroom I*

*Advanced Cardiac Life Support - October 19, 20 - 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. - Auditorium*

*Management Development Course - October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19, 26, December 3, 10 - 10:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon - Board Room*

*CPR Recertification - October 25 - 9:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon - Classroom I*

*New Employee Orientation - October 28 - 8:30 A.M.-12:00 Noon - Conference Dining Room*

*CPR Certification - October 29, 30 - 9:30 A.M.-12:00 Noon - Classroom I*

*For additional information or registration, call the educational development department at Ext. 8320.*



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## THE STROKE TEAM... THERE WHEN YOU NEED THEM

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Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death and the first leading cause of disability in the nation.

In an effort to evaluate, counsel, and teach stroke patients, a stroke team was formed at the Hospital Center in July, 1982. Coordinator of the team is Mary Ann Gergits, R.N., who is also a hospital discharge planner in the social service department. Other members of the team include the patient's physician and primary nurse, a physical therapist, a nutritionist, a speech therapist, an occupational therapist, a social worker and a pastoral care chaplain.

Planning the patient's recovery is the primary goal of the stroke team. Prior to

discharge, members of the team instruct the patient in the performance of activities of daily living, proper diet, and medications. Information is also given to the patient regarding the disease process, reactions and results of a stroke, risk factors, and warning signs. Arrangements for assistance from community agencies are also made upon request.

The stroke team is available to answer any questions a patient may have about his or her discharge and will assist in developing a post-hospital care plan designed to meet the patient's individual needs.

The Stroke Team...they are there when you need them.



## STRIDE FOR STROKE

The month of October has been proclaimed "Stroke Awareness Month" in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by Governor Dick Thornburgh. The Lehigh Valley Stroke Program, in cooperation with area hospitals, will be presenting events throughout the month.

One of these events is the second annual "Stride for Stroke Festival" to be held on Saturday, October 19, from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at Bicentennial Park in Allentown. The Stroke Program would like to invite you to join them on the 19th for a day of fun and activities designed to focus on stroke prevention, detection, treatment and rehabilitation.

Some of the activities planned are a 10K race for individuals and teams, a two mile fun run, a three mile walk for stroke, crafts, music, a quilt raffle, educational programs, and lots of fun!

Come out and join us -- admission is free. Raindate will be October 20. For further information, call the Lehigh Valley Stroke Program at 432-5421.

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## THE CARING GOES ON

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An attempt to set fire to some bats nesting in a tree last summer nearly cost Mark Forbes his life. The 10 year old Coopersburg boy had a one in 10 chance of surviving the severe burns he received when gasoline spilled beneath him and burst into flames. The fire, which rapidly burned through Mark's light clothing, spread to 80 percent of his thin body. Mark was rushed to the Hospital Center's Burn Center by MedEvac where he began a long and painful race to save his life. After three months of hospitalization, Mark was ready to begin the uphill climb to complete recovery and re-entry into the community.

According to Yvonne Troiani, R.N., B.S.N., clinical coordinator of the Burn Center, the discharge of burn patients is just the beginning of their recovery. The Burn Center's staff realizes the special psychological and emotional needs of burn victims, particularly children, which accompany readjusting to the physical changes which result from burns.



## "Caring"



Yvonne Troiani, R.N., B.S.N., presents a message on burn prevention to over 160 students at the Southern Lehigh Middle School. Standing by to answer questions is Lynn Forbes, the mother of Mark Forbes who was a former burn patient.

In an effort to help Mark readjust, members of the Burn Center's staff met with about 50 of Mark's classmates last January to help them prepare for his return to fifth grade at Liberty Bell School. The message of what happens to burn victims, as well as burn prevention, was presented to the students. Due to the success of the re-entry program, another program was scheduled in June at Southern Lehigh Middle School for over 400 sixth and seventh grade students.

This fall, Mark entered sixth grade at Southern Lehigh Middle School. Although many of his classmates had known Mark from Liberty Bell School, there were a lot of new faces. To tell Mark's story to these new students, another program was arranged with the school.

On Tuesday, September 10, over 160 sixth

grade students and teachers sat attentively in the school's auditorium while Troiani and Debbie Lutz, R.N., assistant head nurse of the Burn Center, presented Mark's story. During the program, Troiani discussed burn prevention and the management of burns. A film strip entitled, "A Question of Burning," was also shown. Lutz showed slides of Mark while he was in the hospital and explained what happened to him.

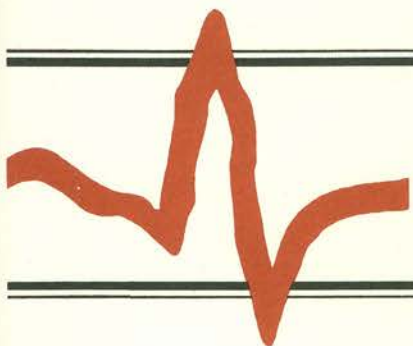
Lynn Forbes, Mark's mother and a nurse at The Allentown Hospital, also attended the program to answer questions about Mark's limitations, the protective pressure garment he must wear, and what the students could do to help.

Although these programs are just a part of the specialized care provided by the Burn Center's staff, it is quite evident that they have made a significant difference in Mark's life.



Debbie Lutz, R.N., and Yvonne Troiani, R.N., B.S.N., take a few moments to chat with Mark Forbes and his mom following the re-entry program.





## MEDICAL STAFF NEWS

Herbert L. Hyman, M.D., F.A.C.P., senior consultant in gastroenterology at the Hospital Center, was recently a guest speaker at the 7th Annual Senior Citizens Day in Whitehall. Hyman's topic of discussion was "Alcohol in the Elderly."

Well known in the Lehigh Valley area, Hyman has been a guest speaker at numerous senior citizen organizations. His topics generally include various aspects of preventive medicine as well as gastroenterology.

Hyman is a member of medical staffs of both the Hospital Center and The Allentown Hospital.

## *Notes from our Patients*

"Nursing care and service were very good as usual. The hospital personnel were very concerned. I've been a patient so often and in many departments and the staff was very concerned upon hearing about my admission. It makes me feel good to know I'm a person and not a number or just another patient."

A patient from SCU,  
5B, and 7C

"The emergency room staff, Dr. Fassl, and the other doctors, nurses, and technicians on duty at the time of my emergency saved my life. I lack the words to express my profound, heartfelt gratitude. I would not hesitate to return to the Lehigh Valley Hospital Center or recommend it to those dear to me."

An emergency room  
patient

"My admission to your hospital was my 50th admission to a hospital since 1964, and I have never been treated as well at anytime. I cannot thank all of your staff enough for all that was done for me. I highly recommend your hospital to anyone. I was a stranger but you took me in. You cared for me even though I could not pay. Thank you and God bless you all."

A patient from  
3C





## THE HOSPITAL CENTER WELCOMES

*To Admitting*  
*Nancy Isbell*

*To Community Cancer Center*  
*Maureen Weiss*

*To Computer Services*  
*Karen Ellsweig*

*To Emergency Services*  
*Brenda Barber*  
*Zachary Lysek*

*To Housekeeping*  
*Carl Biscontinini*  
*Jose Collazo*  
*Wilma Hampton*  
*Wanda Schwartz*

*To Linen*  
*Marlyn Stroh*

*To Nursing Services*  
*Shiela Arey-Morris*  
*Janet Busch*  
*Barbara DeFrank*  
*Carol Hotchkiss*  
*Lisa Masters*  
*Patricia Matula*

*To Pastoral Care*  
*Paul Middlesworth*

*To Pharmacy*  
*Pamela Makos*  
*Robert Trevorah*

*To Physical Therapy*  
*Susan Lazorik*

*To Respiratory Therapy*  
*Marie Suchan*

*To Vascular Lab*  
*Rosalie Schwambach*



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